

PENNSTATE



Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
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Date: August 18, 2003

To: Teravy Mol
 Cares Commission

From: R. Kevin Grigsby, D.S.W.
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Re: CARES Hearing Presentation on August 28, 2003 at the
 VA Medical Center Coatesville, Pennsylvania

On behalf of Darrell G. Kirch, MD, Senior Vice President for Health Affairs, Dean of the College of Medicine, and CEO of the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center at Penn State University, I appreciate having the opportunity to share some remarks about the value of the relationship between our organization and the VA.

The Lebanon VA Medical Center and Penn State College of Medicine/Milton S. Hershey Medical Center

- The affiliation between the Lebanon VA Medical Center (VAMC) and Penn State University College of Medicine (PSUCOM)/Milton S. Hershey Medical Center (MSHMC) began in 1986. This outstanding relationship was first developed to capitalize upon the synergy that exists between the two organizations. The Lebanon VAMC offered an outstanding clinical experience and well-trained physicians to serve as attending (teaching) physicians. The PSUCOM offered resident physicians, which in turn provided the VAMC with needed patient care services, as well as academic teaching experience for VAMC providers. Over the years, additional resident positions were added, as unique specialty services were made available for veterans receiving care at Lebanon VAMC. Unique training opportunities are offered in ophthalmology, surgery and psychiatry.

- Current Resident Position Allocation at the Lebanon VAMC:

Specialty	Resident Allocation
Anesthesia	1.50
Cardiovascular Disease	2.00
Diagnostic Radiology	1.00
Family Practice	1.00
General Internal Medicine	11.50
Prime Medicine	4.00
General Surgery	2.00

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Oncology	0.20
Ophthalmology	3.00
Psychiatry	1.00
Urology	0.40
Totals	27.60

Approximately 250 medical residents rotate annually at the Lebanon VAMC, providing a large number of physicians the opportunity to become familiar with the VA health system and to have needed experience with a unique patient population. Lebanon also serves as a medical clerkship rotation for approximately 60 medical students from PSUCOM each year. CARES capacity planning initiative projects that Lebanon VAMC will need to plan to increase acute beds in the future. This increase (a projected 8 to 11 beds) will enhance the Residency Training program in Acute Medicine that is currently in place.

Services/Programs added as a result of the Growth of the Affiliation

- Joint Strategic Planning Goals were developed between the two organizations beginning in 2001. This joint planning process along with quarterly Affiliation Council meetings have allowed the two institutions to strengthen their relationship through improved communications leading to a better understanding of the healthcare needs of south central Pennsylvania veterans.
- The two organizations have jointly developed a Research and Development Program. Studies are currently underway by physicians holding joint appointments at the Lebanon VAMC and PSUCOM/MSHMC in the areas of ophthalmology, cardiovascular disease, nephrology, and stroke prevention. During 2003, there were 10 active Research Principal Investigators and 14 active research projects at the Lebanon VAMC. Total funding for these projects totaled \$868,987. A joint research lab was recently opened at Lebanon VAMC. Partial funding for the construction was provided by the PSUCOM.
- Specialty Contracts with the PSUCOM/MSHMC have allowed VAMC to provide needed specialty services to veterans. Current specialty contracts with PSU/MSHMC include the following: Anesthesia, Cardiology, Dermatology, Ophthalmology, and Urology. Without these specialty agreements, veterans would be required to travel a minimum of two hours for care to the VISN 4 eastern hub facility. Workload projections in these specialty areas suggest that staffing will be needed. Plans call for physician providers to be recruited for joint appointments at Lebanon VAMC and PSUCOM/MSHMC.
- The PSUCOM/MSHMC assists the Lebanon VAMC in the provision of emergency and outpatient procedures for area veterans. During the past year, Hershey provided the following outpatient and inpatient emergent procedures to veterans who were unable to travel to the VA Hub facility in Philadelphia.
 - Inpatient (emergent)

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- Hemodialysis
 - Cardiac Catherization
 - PTCA with Stent Placement
 - Electroshock Therapy (ECT)
 - Pericardiocentesis
 - Cardiac Stress Test
 - V-Q Scan
 - Fem-Pop bypass with Thrombolectomy
 - Renal Duplex
- Outpatient
 - MRI
 - TEE
 - Sclerabuckle
 - Nephrostomy Tube Placement
 - Ureteroscopy
 - Lithotripsy
 - Submandibular Duct Exploration

Conclusion

- The affiliation between Lebanon VAMC and the PSUCOM/MSHMC is at its strongest point in its 15-year history and cooperative working relationship. This is a result of committed leadership throughout both institutions.
- With the opening of a new Research Lab at Lebanon VAMC under joint sponsorship, our research program between the two institutions will continue to grow as we recruit physician researchers with joint appointments.
- PSUCOM/MSHMC is committed to providing both onsite specialty services at Lebanon VAMC and inpatient acute care services at Hershey Medical Center for those veterans unable to travel the minimum two hours to VISN 4 Hub facilities. CARES projections indicate the need for these specialty care services will increase for veterans residing in south central Pennsylvania.

Presentation before the
Public Hearing
Capital Assessment Realignment for Enhanced Services Commission
VA Medical Center, 1400 Blackhorse Hill Road, Coatesville, PA

by
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Good Morning, My name is George Downs. I am the Dean of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. The Philadelphia College of Pharmacy is the first and oldest College of Pharmacy in the United States. It is also the largest of the 90 colleges of pharmacy in the US with over 1500 pharmacy students and over 200 graduates per year.

We are located in Philadelphia, one of the predominant seats of medical education with 5 medical schools, two pharmacy schools, schools of Podiatry and Optometry and important and prestigious academic medical centers. The VA Medical Center in Philadelphia is a key component of this Philadelphia medical establishment.

The Philadelphia Veterans Administration Hospital is an important site for the education of our students. As you know, the Philadelphia VA provides services for over 40,000 veterans in the region through ambulatory care services and inpatient and long-term care beds. This facility is important in the education of our students.

Pharmacy education requires six years to obtain a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Over one full academic year of the pharmacist's education is provided as clinical experience.

At the Philadelphia VA, we have faculty assigned to teach students in the ambulatory and inpatient areas. We have found over the years that the VA experience is excellent for pharmacists. Nationwide, pharmacists have provided state-of-the-art services to the veteran population. This is true also in the Philadelphia VA.

I have had the pleasure of participating in the education of students at the Philadelphia VA. I served as a consultant pharmacist for the pharmacy residency program, conducted the Medication Refill Clinic and the Anticoagulation Clinic and served as a consultant pharmacist for the Medical Intensive Care Unit. My experience and that of my faculty has been very positive within this institution.

VA pharmacy staff support our faculty and students in the educational endeavor. Without the VA, the educational mission of the PCP would be seriously affected. The VA experience is a wonderful opportunity for our students. They see and participate in

collaborative practices with physicians, dentists, nurses, physician assistants and all health practitioners.

There are some downside issues to be addressed at this institution. We hear of other VA Medical Centers with better facilities and more innovative and dynamic programs. In all of the years that I have been affiliated with the Philadelphia VA, resources have always been a factor in limiting some innovative practices.

We need better resources to bring our practice level to the level of the remainder of the VA system. For instance, PCP faculty started the pharmacist managed anticoagulation clinic that was then taken over by VA pharmacy staff and has been continued since the early 1980's. However, no other innovative practices in the ambulatory setting such as the medication refill clinic have been able to be continued by the VA pharmacy due to limited resources. Expanding pharmacist-managed clinics reduces the demand for physician resources and provides more time for primary care by VA physicians. Expanding pharmacy clinical services at this institution would be of value to the veteran patients as well as our students.

We can truly say that our students have enjoyed the VA experience and we are reliant on the VA Medical Center in Philadelphia for the successful implementation of our educational programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this hearing.